little blood showed. I incised the wound well with a Laudor-Brunton lancet and rubbed in Permanganate of Potash Crystals for some minutes with ligature above wrist. The boy only complained of some pain up as far as shoulder, but this may have been the effects of the ligature. He was alright next morning. I sent at once for the snake which they had killed, and it proved to be a *Lachesis monticola*. About 15 inches long, it was under a stone which the boy was removing.

A. WRIGHT,

GYABARI, D. H. RY.,
10*th October* 1918.

No. XXXVI.—REMARKS ON COL. WALL'S IDENTIFICATION OF *HYDROPHIS CYANOCINCTUS*.

In the last number of this Journal (XXV. 4, p. 754), Col. Wall has given details of some sea snakes—a gravid female and four others—which I sent to the Society's Museum about two years ago. At the time they were identified by me as *H. tuberculatus*, Anderson. Col. Wall now states in his article that he considers them to be *H. cyanocinctus*, a diagnosis with which I cannot agree at all.

It is now nearly six years since I obtained the first specimen of this snake, and being then unable to identify it with any description, sent it to Mr. Boulenger for his opinion.* He considered it to be *H. tuberculatus*, but as far as I am aware he had no specimen for comparison, the type and only one then known being in the Indian Museum. What is evident, however, is that he did not consider it to be *cyanocinctus*, and this view was confirmed later in a second specimen. (Jnl., Nat. Hist. Soc., Siam., I.4.247). Col. Wall on the other hand who has examined the type of *H. tuberculatus*, has pronounced it to be an undoubted *cyanocinctus* (*vide* Monograph, p. 220).

I very naturally therefore wished to examine this type for myself, and last year through the kindness of Dr. Annandale I was able to do so. I had no hesitation in agreeing with Col. Wall that it was a *cyanocinctus*. At the same time I felt equally sure that my own snake was not, and being therefore unknown to science I described it under the name of *H. siamensis*.†

I had then a large series of them, together with typical *cyanocinctus*, for comparison, both species being common in the Gulf of Siam. Col. Wall's article is dated December, and at the time he wrote if he could not have seen my description. In any case he could not have known I had renamed the snake, as in my preliminary notice I have given no synonymy.

Col. Wall has given eight reasons to support his diagnosis and I will take them in their order. With Nos. 2, 3 and 5 I agree, but that fact does not in any way influence my decision.

"1. Because the number of the costal rows accords with the range given in Boulenger's description in his Catalogue, Vol. III, p. 295."

I cannot follow Col. Wall in his argument here. The range given by Boulenger is 27 to 33 round the neck, 39 to 45 round the body. Yet the range recorded by Col. Wall for my 13 specimens is, 31 to 35 round the neck, 35 to 39 round the body ; 39 in fact, Boulenger's minimum count, is reach only 3 times in the series.

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* This specimen is still in the British Museum of Natural History.

† Preliminary diagnoses of four new sea snakes—Jrnl., Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam. II, 1, p. 340, Dec. 1918.

"4. There is nothing in the lepidosis of the head by which they can be considered distinct."

Again I quote Boulenger. "Frontal much longer than broad, as long as its distance from the rostral or the end of the snout" and later "two superposed anterior temporals." In my description of *H. siamensis* I have given, "frontal as long as or shorter than its distance to the rostral" and "normally a single anterior temporal"; and in a series of 33 specimens the frontal is shorter than its distance to the rostral in 22, or 66 per cent. of them, and although a single anterior temporal appears to be normal, fragmentation of that shield on one or both sides occurs in 11, or 33 per cent., of the specimens. Such differences as these were they to be found only in one or two examples might be rightly viewed with suspicion, but where they are to be found frequently over a large series they are surely entitled to recognition.

"6. The dentition agrees with that of my Indian specimens and is as follows:—The postmaxillary teeth vary from 7 to 10 (Indian specimens 6 to 10)."

This is not in accordance with Col. Wall's previous remarks on *cyanocinctus* (*antea*, XXIII, 2, p. 375). There he says, the postmaxillary teeth are usually 7 in number, sometimes 6, in one 8. My 5 skulls of *cyanocinctus* from this region agree entirely with his original figures, whereas in 6 skulls of *siamensis* the teeth are 8 and 9, in one doubtful 10.

Finally there is the question of length and colouration (7 and 8). The length of *siamensis* (my series includes 7 gravid females) does not exceed 1000 mm. *Cyanocinctus* on the other hand attains a much greater length. Boulenger gives it up to 1,500 mm., but my largest specimen measures 1,885 mm.

Siamensis is greenish-grey above, with dark grey complete bands. The head is dark grey or black, with yellow markings along the sides and across the snout. Both bands and yellow markings tend to disappear in old age. Of my 21 examples (adult and half grown) of *cyanocinctus* from this region, none is completely banded. They are boldly marked with blue black dorsal bars, which as with *siamensis* disappear with age. The head is oliveaseous or yellowish, and without the defined markings of *cyanocinctus*.

In considering therefore that my specimens were not *H. tuberculatus*, I agree with Col. Wall, for we are both of the opinion that that name should be a synonym of *cyanocinctus*. But that my *siamensis* is also a *cyanocinctus* I most strongly contest. In fact I find them so different that I should not have thought it possible for them to be confused.

MALCOLM A. SMITH, F.Z.S.

BANGKOK, *August* 1918.

No. XXXVII.—NOTES ON SOME INTERESTING SNAKES RECENTLY PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY.

Ablabes pavo, Annandale.

The Society has been fortunate in securing a specimen of this handsome snake, which has hitherto been only known from the Abor Hills, where a single example was obtained on the Upper Rotung, by the 32 Sikh Pioneers while road making. It is described by Dr. Annandale in the Zoological Results of the Abor Expedition. (Records of the Ind. Musc. Vol. VII., pt. 1. Plate.) The present specimen was obtained at Kindat, Chin Hills, Burma, by Mr. J. M. D. Mackenzie. The scale characters agree with Dr. Annandale's description of the Abor specimen; on the present species the 3rd supralabial on one side is divided giving off a small scale wedged